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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Action Subject to Intergovernmental Review

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Action Subject to Intergovernmental Review Under Executive

Order 12372.

SUMMARY: The Small Business Administration (SBA) is notifying the public that it

intends to grant the pending applications of 41 existing Small Business Development

Centers (SBDCs) for refunding on January 1, 2015 subject to the availability of funds. A

short description of the SBDC program follows in the supplementary information below.

The SBA is publishing this notice at least 90 days before the expected refunding

date. The SBDCs and their mailing addresses are listed below in the address section. A

copy of this notice also is being furnished to the respective State single points of contact

designated under the Executive Order. Each SBDC application must be consistent with

any area-wide small business assistance plan adopted by a State-authorized agency.

DATES: A State single point of contact and other interested State or local entities may

submit written comments regarding an SBDC refunding within 30 days from the date of

publication of this notice to the SBDC.

ADDRESSES:

ADDRESSES OF RELEVANT SBDC STATE DIRECTORS

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Mr. Herbert Thweatt

SBDC State Director

SBDC State Director

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Mr. Casey Jeszenka Mr. Jesse Torres

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SBDC State Director SBDC State Director

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Ms. Mary Collins Dr. James Petell

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University of New Hampshire University of Rhode Island

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Kingston, RI 02881

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Ms. Carol Lopucki

State Director

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50 Front Avenue, SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Louis Peasley, Director of Financial Oversight, Office of Small Business Development Centers, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Sixth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of the SBDC Program

A partnership exists between SBA and an SBDC. SBDCs offer training, counseling and other business development assistance to small businesses. Each SBDC provides services under a negotiated Cooperative Agreement with the SBA. SBDCs operate on the basis of a state plan to provide assistance within a state or geographic area. The initial plan must have the written approval of the Governor. Non-Federal funds must match Federal funds. An SBDC must operate according to law, the Cooperative Agreement, SBA's regulations, the annual Program Announcement, and program

guidance.

Program Objectives

The SBDC program uses Federal funds to leverage the resources of states, academic institutions and the private sector to:

- (a) strengthen the small business community;
- (b) increase economic growth;
- (c) assist more small businesses; and
- (d) broaden the delivery system to more small businesses.

SBDC Program Organization

The lead SBDC operates a statewide or regional network of SBDC service centers. An SBDC must have a full-time Director. SBDCs must use at least 80 percent of the Federal funds to provide services to small businesses. SBDCs use volunteers and other low cost resources as much as possible.

SBDC Services

An SBDC must have a full range of business development and technical assistance services in its area of operations, depending upon local needs, SBA priorities and SBDC program objectives. Services include training and counseling to existing and prospective small business owners in management, marketing, finance, operations, planning, taxes, and any other general or technical area of assistance that supports small business growth.

The SBA district office and the SBDC must agree upon the specific mix of services. They should give particular attention to SBA's priority and special emphasis groups, including veterans, women, exporters, the disabled, and minorities.

SBDC Program Requirements

An SBDC must meet programmatic and financial requirements imposed by

statute, regulations or its Cooperative Agreement. The SBDC must:

(a) locate service centers so that they are as accessible

as possible to small businesses;

(b) open all service centers at least 40 hours per week, or during the normal

business hours of its state or academic Host Organization, throughout the year;

(c) develop working relationships with financial

institutions, the investment community, professional associations, private consultants and

small business groups; and

(d) maintain lists of private consultants at each service center.

Carroll A. Thomas,

Associate Administrator,

Office of Small Business Development Centers.

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